

**EMT-1 REGULATORY TASK FORCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 8, 2001  
Oakland International Airport**

**I. Introductions**

Self-introductions were made. Dave Magnino announced that Aaron York is no longer an alternate on the EMT-I Task Force for the CHP; he has been replaced by Jeff Page.

| <b>MEMBERS<br/>PRESENT</b> | <b>EMSA STAFF<br/>PRESENT</b> | <b>ALTERNATES<br/>PRESENT</b> | <b>MEMBERS<br/>ABSENT</b> | <b>ALTERNATES<br/>ABSENT</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bob Cordray                | Sean Trask                    | None                          | Nancy Casazza             | Bruce Kenagy                 |
| Elaine Dethlefsen          | Lois Williams                 |                               | Bruce Haynes              | David Nevins                 |
| Jean English               |                               |                               | Steve Maiero              | Byron Parsons                |
| Donna Ferracone            |                               |                               | Sally McGregor            | Karen Petrilla               |
| Gloria Huerta              |                               |                               | Marco Randazzo            | Jeff Page                    |
| Pat Kramm                  |                               |                               | Bob Repar                 |                              |
| Dave Magnino               |                               |                               | Veronica Sheppard         |                              |
| Tom McGinnis               |                               |                               | Susan Smith               |                              |
| Debbie Meier               |                               |                               | John Tysell               |                              |
| Debi Moffat                |                               |                               |                           |                              |
| John Pritting              |                               |                               |                           |                              |
| Kevin White                |                               |                               |                           |                              |
| Todd Wilhoyte              |                               |                               |                           |                              |

**II. Minutes**

Approved as written.

**III. Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the following change; switch Old Business to item V and New Business to item IV.

**IV. New Business**

**A. Summary of Vision Conference**

The Vision Implementation Project held a conference on November 30 and December 1, 2000 in San Francisco. Sean explained how the EMT-I Regulations Task Force fit into the Education and Personnel group of the Vision Process. A number of issues that the EMT-I Task Force is addressing were presented with the intent to get feedback from members of constituent groups who attended the conference. The following comments pertaining to the EMT-I Task Force were summarized at the conference:

1. Attendees at the Vision Conference were in support of the Department of Transportation's National Standard EMT-Basic Curriculum (NSC) as a foundation for EMT-Basic training in California. Attendees also were in agreement that enhancements should be added as identified when the EMT-Basic scope of practice is determined.
2. There was agreement that the certification procedure needs to be standardized but left at the local level.
3. The conference attendees were in support of an EMT registry at the EMS Authority. The purpose of the registry would be to provide local EMS agencies with certification information about EMT-Is certified throughout the state. This information would be available on the Internet.
4. There was support for criminal background checks.

5. There were mixed feelings at the Vision Conference towards standardizing the EMT-I certifying exam by using the National Registry EMT-Basic exam. There seemed to be more support of using a standard certifying exam after it was announced that recertification testing would be eliminated, except in cases of lapsed EMT-I certifications.
6. The topic of criminal background checks was raised at the last Task Force meeting and Sean added that he did research the sharing of background check information. The Department of Justice prohibits sharing this information. Background checks for EMT-I certification are a priority by local EMS agencies. This topic will require further research and discussion.

B. Ventura County Trial Study

Richard Watson, Interim Director asked the EMT-I Task Force to review this trial study and provide feedback to him before he considers adding this skill to the EMT-I optional scope of practice. This is a trial study that studied EMT-Is starting IVs under the direct supervision of a paramedic. The final report of this study was reviewed by the Task Force Members and the Task Force recommends tabling a recommendation to Richard Watson until the Task Force addresses the EMT-I basic and enhanced scope of practice to see if the use of IV's will fit into an enhanced scope of practice.

V. Old Business

- A. Committee Report: Comparison of Responsibilities between EMSA and LEMSA's (Sub-committee members: Pat Kramm, Steve Maiero, Bruce Kenagy, Debi Meier)  
The survey developed by the Comparison of Responsibilities Between the EMS Authority and local EMS agencies Committee was faxed to local EMS agencies by Sean but only about 50% have responded. The group will continue to obtain results and report back at the next meeting.
- B. Committee Report: Exam Administration (Sub-committee members: Gloria Huerta, Debi Moffat)  
The Task Force discussed the following points:
  1. 38 states use registry at some point in their testing process. The remaining states develop and administer their own test.
  2. Developing an EMT-I certifying exam from scratch could be very costly for an organization that does not have experience with the EMT-I scope of practice. The committee looked at the organization that develops the PSAT exam. This organization does not develop medical exams. The committee also looked at organizations that develop board exams for nursing. Specialty licensure exams are very expensive. The committee will look at Cooperative Personnel Services to see if it is feasible for them to develop a certifying exam.
  3. The committee will develop a chart comparing the pros and cons of the National Registry versus another standardized test.
  4. The Task Force agreed that currently certified EMT-I's will not be required to take the National Registry exam for certification and will be grandfathered in as EMT-Is.
  5. The Task force feels that it is imperative to keep a high standard of test security as basis for the decision of selecting an appropriate exam process.
- C. Committee Report: Licensure Issues (Sub-committee members: Gloria Huerta, John Pritting, Kevin White)
  1. Sean conducted a survey of other states, 45% of which responded. All of the respondents indicated that they have only one certifying authority in their states.

2. Approximately half of the responding states indicated that they require a high school diploma or GED for either admission to an EMT-I training program or for EMT-I certification.
  3. Draft Section 1000079 (f) on Certification was revisited and revised to read “the effective date of the initial certificate shall be valid for two years from the last day of the month in which you passed your written certification exam.”
  4. The topic of criminal background checks for EMT-I certification was discussed and the following points were made:
    - a. Sharing of criminal background information is prohibited by the Department of Justice. This makes it difficult to take certification action on a certificate holder, with an actionable offense discovered through a criminal background check, if that certificate holder moves to another EMS jurisdiction from where they had their fingerprints originally done.
    - b. There is a concern that some EMT-Is will have to go through repetitive fingerprinting, each with its own separate fee, if the certificate holder goes from one EMS agency to another for certification. There may also be repetitive fingerprints for various jobs that a certificate holder may have (EMT/firefighter, EMT/law enforcement officer, EMT/school employee, etc).
    - c. The EMS Administrators are in favor of criminal background checks.
    - d. Gloria Huerta will need input from the California Fire Chiefs before she is willing to express support or opposition.
    - e. California Ambulance Association is concerned about who will be responsible for the cost of fingerprinting.
    - f. The CHP is requesting an exemption for law enforcement personnel.
    - g. Sean will speak to Richard McSherry of the Paramedic Enforcement Unit at the EMS Authority about criminal background information and DOJ requirements.
  5. Draft Section 100080 Continuing Education (CE) was discussed and the following suggestions were made
    - a. Section 100080(a) Change EMT-I to EMT-B and “from an EMS approved CE provider”
    - b. Before the Task Force progresses in this section, we a comparison of the EMT-I CE requirements and paramedic CE requirements. Sean will develop a table comparing the EMT-I CE requirement with the paramedic CE requirements and bring this back to the next meeting.
- D. Committee Report: EMT Approving Authority (Sub-committee members: Elaine Dethlefsen, Donna Ferracone, Debi Moffat, Kevin White).
1. A revised draft was distributed which contained changes made at the September 20, 2000 meeting. A suggestion was made to add facilities comments and basic equipment list comment in 100066(11). Costs were discussed.
  2. A draft site report was distributed. If this site report is used, there will need to be an enforcement criteria included.
  3. 100070 needs to be reworded to incorporate suggestions from September Task Force meeting. The committee will need to check the DOT EMT instructor qualifications. Lois Williams will bring Emergency Medical Dispatch regulations regarding teaching to the next meeting.
  4. There was a lot of support from the Task Force members to volunteer to conduct EMT-I training program site visits throughout the state.

The EMS Authority requested that all future Task Force meetings be held in Sacramento. Task Force members expressed that this would create a hardship for the members from Southern California. There would be a decrease in attendance since it was agreed, early

in the life of this Task Force, that the Task Force meetings would be split between Northern California and Southern California to decrease the hardship of traveling long distances. The Task Force members suggested that future Northern California meetings be held in Sacramento and continue with every other meeting in Southern California. EMS Authority will report back at the next meeting.

Next meeting February 20, 2001 at Ontario International Airport. 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

Recorder: Debi Moffat